



# CITY VOICE

—Thornton's Own Newspaper—

## Important Dates

The links to join our public city meetings can be found on our Community Calendar on our website at [ThorntonCO.gov](https://ThorntonCO.gov).

**Tuesday, March 8, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Thursday, March 17, 12 p.m.**  
Active Adult Center  
St. Patrick's Day Lunch & Celebration

**Tuesday, March 22, 5:45 p.m.**  
City Council Update

**Tuesday, March 22, 7 p.m.**  
City Council Meeting

**Tuesday, March 29, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Tuesday, April 5, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Tuesday, April 12, 5:45 p.m.**  
City Council Update

**Tuesday, April 12, 7 p.m.**  
City Council Meeting

**Wednesday, April 14, 12 p.m.**  
Active Adult Center  
Easter Lunch Celebration

**Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
EggCessible EggStravaganza

**Tuesday, April 19, 5:45 p.m.**  
Council Planning Session

**Tuesday, April 26, 5:45 p.m.**  
City Council Update

**Tuesday, April 26, 7 p.m.**  
City Council Meeting

**Friday, April 29, 5 p.m.**  
Active Adult Center  
Spring Fling Sock Hop

## Thornton Now Offers TextMyGov

With just a text message, Thornton residents can easily report issues such as potholes and park maintenance, get festival information, and more. To get started, simply text 'Hi' or any of the other featured keywords, such as Trash, Recycling, Thorntonfest, Pay My Bill, or Pothole to **303-502-TEXT (8398)**. For more information visit [gocot.net/textmygov](https://gocot.net/textmygov).

Thornton's  
TextMyGov

Para leer el periódico de la ciudad de Thornton "City Voice" en español, escanee este código con su teléfono.



## Thornton City Council Votes on Residency Status for Ward 1 Seat



In a six-hour council meeting that started on February 8 at 7:00pm, Thornton City Council voted 5 to 4 to declare a vacancy in the Ward 1 seat held by Jacque Phillips. The council heard several hours of public comment, most of which pertained to the residency action item later in the meeting. After public comment, council members provided evidence on the record and after several rounds of discussion voted. Thornton City Attorney Tami Yellico and outside counsel Geoff Wilson advised council on the Thornton Charter requirements, pertinent case law, and state statutes that should be considered for determining residency. Dr. Jacque Phillips had her own attorney present who also provided evidence and answered questions.

The question about Dr. Phillip's residency status was first raised by a Ward 1 resident at a council meeting last Fall. During that meeting, council learned Dr. Phillips had taken a full time job as the Executive Director for the San Luis Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Services in Alamosa in the summer of 2021. Council learned in January of this year that Dr. Phillips had also purchased a home in Alamosa in August of 2021 and designated it as her primary residence on loan documents. Dr. Phillips's lawyer told council she had not moved from Thornton and was splitting time between Thornton and Alamosa.

Thornton's Charter language which addresses a vacancy is as follows:

### 4.5.- Vacancy

C. A vacancy shall exist when an elective officer fails to qualify, dies, resigns, is removed from office, moves from the City, moves from the ward from which elected, is incapacitated or is absent continuously therefrom for more than three (3) months, is convicted of a felony, or is judicially declared mentally incompetent. That such cause of vacancy exists shall be established by competent evidence thereof and placed on record in the Council minutes. The Council shall determine the validity of the evidence and, based on its determination, decide when a vacancy exists.

Thornton City Council Members Adam Matkowsky, David Acunto, Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Sandgren, Tony Unrein, and Mayor Jan Kulmann voted in favor of a motion declaring a vacancy based on the evidence. Council Members Kathy Henson, Julia Marvin, Karen Bigelow and Jacque Phillips voted against the motion.

Thornton City Council will take applications from people interested in being appointed to the Ward 1 seat and make an appointment. Visit [ThorntonCO.gov](https://ThorntonCO.gov) for more information.

## Updates to Thornton Water Rates

Starting April 1, the monthly water rate will increase. The city of Thornton's water rates are regularly adjusted to cover the rising cost to supply safe drinking water.

"On average, the rate increase will add just \$2.50 a month to winter water bills and \$3.22 monthly to summer water bills for approximately 86% of Thornton Water residential customers," says Thornton Finance Director Kimberly Newhart. Average residential usage is 4,000 gallons per month in the winter and 10,000 gallons per month in the summer. Using those averages, most customers can expect their monthly bill to be in the range of \$31 in the winter and \$65 in the summer. Bills are calculated based on actual monthly usage, measured by your water meter.

This adjustment will raise total rate revenue from \$47.7 million per year to \$49.6 million annually. The additional revenue covers rising operating costs as well as keeps Thornton on track with critical water infrastructure and maintenance projects that ensure the dependable 24/7/365 delivery of safe drinking water to your home. Every cent you pay flows right back to our community.

For more information about your rates, visit [gocot.net/utilitybilling](https://gocot.net/utilitybilling) or contact Utility Billing at **303-538-7370** or [UtilityBilling@ThorntonCO.gov](mailto:UtilityBilling@ThorntonCO.gov). If you need help paying your water bill, contact the Water Assistance Specialist at **720-977-5800** or [Assistance@ThorntonCO.gov](mailto:Assistance@ThorntonCO.gov).

Prsrt Std  
US Postage  
PAID  
Denver, CO  
Permit No. 152

City of Thornton  
9500 Civic Center Dr.  
Thornton CO 80229



# Thornton City Council

Mayor



**Jan Kulmann**  
303-538-7531 - City  
720-201-6155 - Cell  
Jan.Kulmann  
@ThorntonCO.gov

Ward 1



**Kathy Henson**  
303-538-7534 - City  
303-570-6762 - Cell  
Kathy.Henson  
@ThorntonCO.gov



**Vacant at time of publication.**

Ward 2



**Julia Marvin**  
303-538-7536 - City  
720-295-4024 Cell  
Julia.Marvin  
@ThorntonCO.gov



**Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Sandgren**  
303-538-7535 - City  
720-753-2877 - Cell  
Jessica.Sandgren  
@ThorntonCO.gov

Ward 3



**David Acunto**  
303-538-7532 - City  
720-295-9850 - Cell  
David.Acunto  
@ThorntonCO.gov



**Tony Unrein**  
303-538-7533 - City  
303-919-3720 - Cell  
Tony.Unrein  
@ThorntonCO.gov

Ward 4



**Adam Matkowsky**  
303-538-7530 - City  
Adam.Matkowsky  
@ThorntonCO.gov



**Karen Bigelow**  
303-538-7201 - City  
720-237-7358 - Cell  
Karen.Bigelow  
@ThorntonCO.gov

## City Council Meetings

March 22, April 12 & 26

City Council meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are televised live on KTTV-8, Comcast channel 881. These dates are subject to change. Please visit [gocot.net/council](http://gocot.net/council) for current information. If you have a disability and require assistance to attend and participate in these meetings, call 303-538-7334.

Para leer el periódico de la ciudad de Thornton "City Voice" en español, escanee este código con su teléfono.

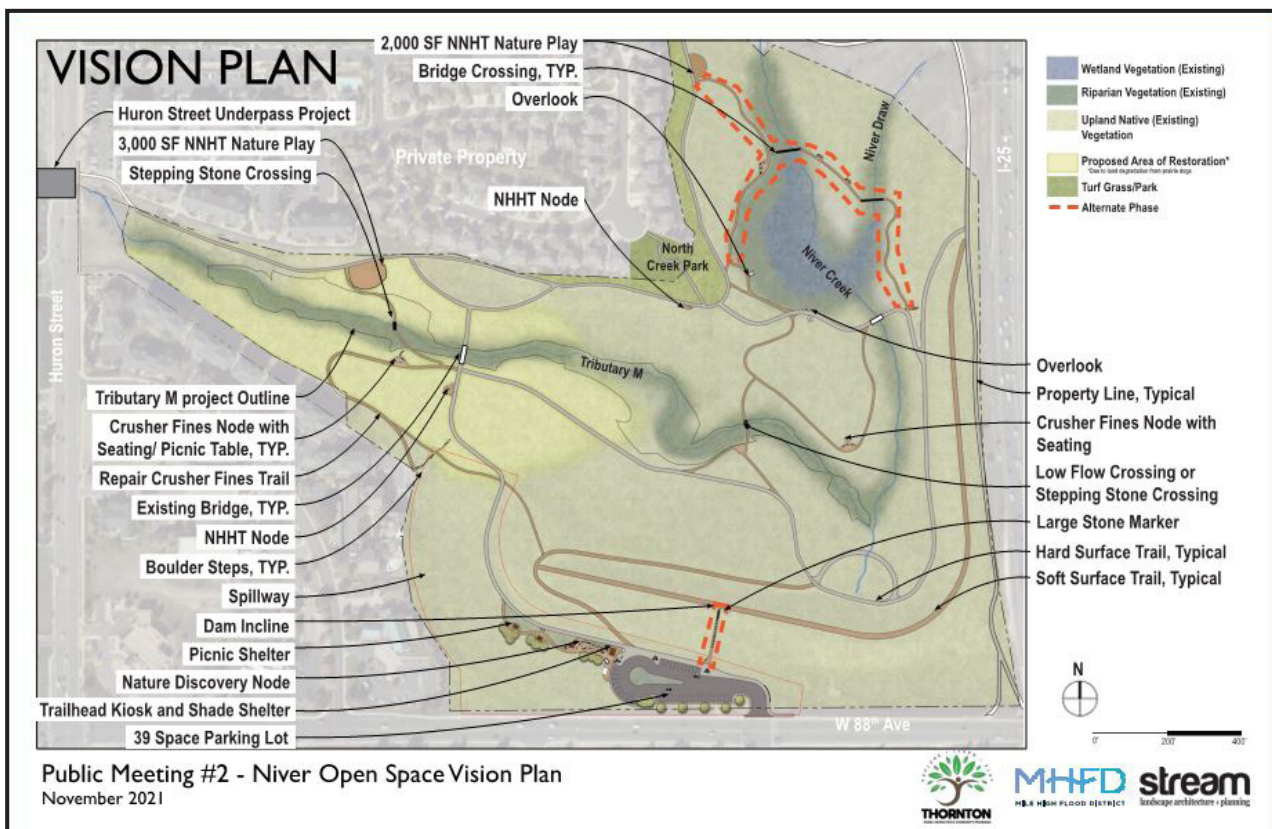


## Thornton Receives \$1,840,400 from Adams County Open Space Grants

Thornton's Parks, Recreation & Community Programs (TPRCP) Department was recently awarded Open Space Grants from proceeds of the Adams County Open Space Sales Tax. These awards will be invested in these Parks and Open Space Capital Improvement Projects:

- An \$815,400 grant will partially fund the purchase of the 6.1-acre McCallister Field/North Huron Christian Center in Ward 1 at Huron Street and West 96th Avenue.

- A \$1,000,000 grant will partially fund numerous improvements to Niver Open Space including: a trailhead parking lot with port-o-let, new and enhanced walking trails, shade shelters, wetland boardwalks and bridges, interpretive signage, and nature play nodes.
- A \$25,000 grant partially funded the installation of new benches and trash receptacles in the Niver Creek area between Pecos Park, Niver Open Space and 84th Avenue.



## New Signs Will Help Guide You Along Thornton Trails

Thornton's new Trail Wayfinding Signage Project will help trail users easily navigate the trail system throughout the city. You'll soon see the trail signs installed along these Thornton trails: Signal Ditch Trail, Mid-Town Trail, Ditch Trail and Grange Hall Creek Trail. The signs feature a citywide color-coded route system on designated kiosks, map boards, pavement markers, destination maps, turns and bike routes. If you have any questions or comments, contact Thornton Parks & Open Space Project Manager Suzann Cox at 303-255-7834 or email [suzann.cox@ThorntonCO.gov](mailto:suzann.cox@ThorntonCO.gov).

Primary Trail Names & Icons					
	Mid-Town Trail		Niver Creek Trail		Ditch Trail
	Big Dry Creek Trail		Grange Hall Creek Trail		Brantner Gulch Trail
	Signal Ditch Trail		Plains Tributary Trail		



## Spring Brings the Annual Fire Hydrant Flushing

The city will begin fire hydrant flushing throughout Thornton this spring. This process will last approximately five weeks, and it ensures the proper operation of the fire hydrants and cleans the water system mains, improving water quality within the distribution system. During the flushing operation, Thornton water customers may experience cloudy or rust-colored water from the tap. This effect should go away after a few hours, and the water is safe to drink during this time.





## Shakespeare In The Parking Lot: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Get ready for the fun-filled antics of this magical world of mismatched lovers, madcap mechanics and mischievous fairies as the Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA) presents Shakespeare in the Parking Lot: A Midsummer Night's Dream. Shakespeare in the Parking Lot is exactly what it sounds like—an abridged performance of A Midsummer Night's

Dream will be performed in and around a pick-up truck "set" located in the upper parking lot of Lu Murray Park, 9451 Dorothy Blvd. on April 30, at noon. Bring camping chairs for this FREE family-friendly performance! Visit [ArtsThornton.com](http://ArtsThornton.com) for more info.



## Trash/Recycling News

**Landfill Day - Saturday, April 16, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.,** Republic Services Tower Landfill, 88th Avenue and Tower Road, Commerce City. The gate fee is waived for Thornton residents to drop off non-hazardous debris. One vehicle load per household. Pickup trucks, cars, and small single-axle trailers only. Electronics and Freon-charged units will not be accepted. Mattresses are subject to an additional fee. All loads must be covered. Restrictions and limitations apply and proof of residency is required.

**Tree Branch/Compost Drop-off - Saturday, April 9, 8 a.m.-noon,** Thornton residents may bring tree branches and compostable material to the Thornton IMC, 12450 Washington St., north entrance off 126th Avenue for free recycling. Restrictions and limitations apply. Proof of residency is required.

**Electronic Recycling -** Visit [ThorntonCO.gov/trashrecycling](http://ThorntonCO.gov/trashrecycling) for event details. Restrictions, limitations and fees will apply and proof of residency will be required.

Help Us On Your Pickup Day! Please have your containers out by 7 a.m. and leave plenty of room for us to work. Place them at least four feet from vehicles and obstructions and two feet away from each other.

### It pays to go PAPERLESS

**Go paperless for a chance to win one of eight VISA gift cards by March 1!**

By signing up for electronic billing Thornton utility customers will be automatically entered to win.

All you need is your customer account number to start.

**It's SAFE, SIMPLE, and SECURE**

Pay your E-bill conveniently on-the-go anytime or anywhere.

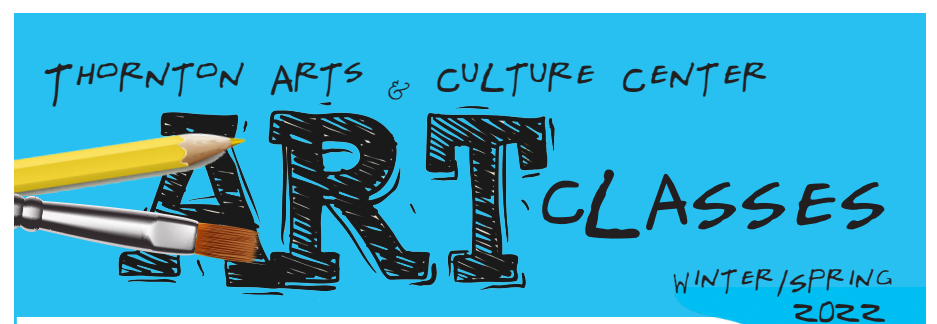
[Visit GOCOT.NET/UTILITYBILLING](http://gocot.net/utilitybilling)

More info? Call 303-538-7370 or email [utilbilling@ThorntonCO.gov](mailto:utilbilling@ThorntonCO.gov).

## Drive Carefully: Adams County Ranked Second in the State for 2021 Road Fatalities

Last year, a total of 672 people were killed on Colorado roadways, and Adams County ranked second in the state with 66 road fatalities, behind only El Paso County, which had 77 fatalities. Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) says the spike is due to unsafe drivers, and is asking drivers statewide to:

- Never drive after consuming alcohol, marijuana or other drugs
- Avoid speeding
- Always buckle up, no matter the distance
- Never text and drive
- Use extra caution around pedestrians and bicyclists



### WATERCOLOR EXPERIENCE | Ages 6-10

Experiment with different techniques and tricks to make amazing watercolor art! Supplies included. Fee: \$48R/NR  
191501-A Tuesdays, March 29-April 26 4-5:30 p.m.

### CREATIVE DRAWING FUN | Ages 6-10

Stretch your creative muscle with drawing, sketching and doodling with pencils, pens and pastels. Learn about line, shading and composition. Supplies included. Fee: \$48R/NR  
191500-A Thursdays, March 31-April 28 4-5:30 p.m.

### WATERCOLOR 1 | Ages 18+

Learn the fundamentals of watercolor. We will cover materials, color mixing, wet-on-wet, dry brush, and approaches to landscape and still life. This class is great for beginners and intermediate artists. You will be emailed a list of supplies after registration. Fee: \$60R/NR  
196501-A Tuesdays, March 29-April 26 6-8 p.m.

### DRAWING 1 | Ages 18+

Have you always wanted to draw or just improve your skills? Learn about line, composition, and value, in a fun and supportive environment. You will be emailed a list of supplies after registration. Fee: \$60R/NR  
196500-A Thursdays, March 31-April 28 6-8 p.m.

Classes are held at the Thornton Arts & Culture Center, 9209 Dorothy Blvd.



Register at [gocot.net/registration](http://gocot.net/registration) or call 720-977-5901.



## City Facilities & Commonly Used Numbers

**Thornton City Hall**  
9500 Civic Center Dr., 80229

**Thornton Police Department and Municipal Court**  
9551 Civic Center Dr., 80229

**Infrastructure Maintenance Center**  
12450 Washington St., 80241

**Margaret W. Carpenter Recreation Center**  
11151 Colorado Blvd., 80233

**Thornton Community Center**  
2211 Eppinger Blvd., 80229

**Thornton Active Adult Center**  
11181 Colorado Blvd., 80233

**Thornton Arts & Culture Center**  
9209 Dorothy Blvd., 80229

**Trail Winds Recreation Center**  
13495 Holly St., 80241

**Thornton Community Connections**  
9471 Dorothy Blvd., 80229

**Active Adult Center** ..... 303-255-7850

**Animal Control** ..... 720-977-5250

**Arts & Culture Center** ..... 720-977-5880

**Building Inspection** ..... 303-538-7250

**Building Permits** ..... 303-538-7250

**Business Assistance** ..... 303-538-7605

**Carpenter Recreation Center** .... 303-255-7800

**City Clerk's Office** ..... 303-538-7230

**City Communications** ..... 303-538-7279

**City Council & Mayor** ..... 303-538-7002

**City Manager's Office** ..... 303-538-7002

**Code Compliance** ..... 303-538-7517

**Community Connections** ..... 720-977-5800

**Economic Development** ..... 303-538-7605

**Fire Department (non-emergency)**.. 303-538-7602

**Human Resources** ..... 303-538-7245

**Municipal Court** ..... 720-977-5400

**Parks, Recreation & Community Programs** ..... 303-538-7275

**Police (non-emergency)**..... 720-977-5150

**Pothole Repair** ..... 720-977-6464

**Snow & Ice Control** ..... 720-977-6464

**Trail Winds Recreation Center** ... 720-977-5700

**Trash & Recycling** ..... 720-977-6200

**Utilities (Water, Sewer)** ..... 720-977-6500

**Utility Billing** ..... 303-538-7370

**Volunteer Hotline** ..... 720-977-5760

**Voter Registration** ..... 303-538-7230

**Water Quality**..... 303-255-7770

### Connect with us on...

**facebook**

@ThorntonColorado

**twitter**

@CityofThornton



@CityofThornton

Join **Nextdoor**  
nextdoor.com

Visit **ThorntonCO.gov**.

### Editorial Staff

**Todd Barnes**, 303-538-7279  
Managing Editor/Communications Director

**Lisa Wilson**, 303-538-7282  
Editor, Writer/Deputy Communications Director

**Erika Barnard-Hollinshed**, 303-538-7256  
Writer, Design/Digital & Print Media Specialist

**Gina Lantz**, 303-538-7575  
Design/Digital & Print Media Specialist

Photographers: City Staff, GettyImages® and Thinkstockphotos®  
A special THANKS to all city Departments and Divisions for their contribution to the *Thornton City Voice* newspaper.

## Upcoming Events

**St. Patrick's Day Lunch** - Active Adult Center, (AAC) Thursday, March 17, noon, Fees: \$4R/\$4.50NR

**Spring Fashion Show** - AAC, April 1, 2-4 p.m. Fees: \$5R/\$7NR

**Trail Winds Casino Happy Hour** - Trail Winds Recreation Center Active Adult Wing, April 8, 2:30-5:30 p.m. Fees: \$10R/\$12NR



**Spring Fling Sock Hop** - AAC, April 29, 5-7 p.m., Fees: \$10R/\$12NR



For more information visit **gocot.net/activeadult** or call **303-255-7850** to register in advance. Events are for 62+ unless otherwise noted.

Para leer el periódico de la ciudad de Thornton "City Voice" en español, escanee este código con su teléfono.



## Renovation Effort Wrapping up at Carpenter Recreation Center Pool

The renovation effort is wrapping up at the Margaret W. Carpenter Recreation Center pool. When it reopens, you'll see state-of-the-art aquatic environments and amenities, with updates that include:

- a new six-lane lap pool with an accessible ADA ramp and a climbing wall,
- a wave pool with a lazy river and bubble pit,



- an activity pool with zero-depth entry, play structure, geysers, and sprays,
- a water slide,
- a 20-person therapeutic hydro-jet spa,
- and an adjacent party room.

Locker room updates will better serve families and individuals with special needs, increasing accessibility.



## Eggcessible Eggstravaganza

**April 16 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

- Community Park @ York Street & Thornton Parkway
- Live Entertainment • Food Trucks
- Appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Bunny

A traditional egg scramble collecting eggs and candy, featuring an adaptive and inclusive egg hunt to include youth with diverse needs and abilities.

### ADAPTIVE & INCLUSIVE EGGSCESSIBLE EGG HUNT

Each youth may be accompanied by one adult.

Walking-4 years old @ 9 a.m. | 5+ years old @ 11 a.m.

Please call 720-977-5702 for more information regarding the adaptive & inclusive portion of this event.

### START TIMES BY AGE GROUPS FOR SCRAMBLES

WALKING-2 @ 9 a.m. • AGES 3-4 @ 10 a.m.

AGES 5-6 @ 11 a.m. • AGES 7-9 @ 12 p.m.

AGES 10-17 from 1-4 p.m.

Flashlight Egg Hunt & Nerf Dart Arena

Thornton Community Center • 2211 Eppinger Blvd.

Don't forget your basket! Parking is limited.



Visit our website, **gocot.net/festivals** or call 720-977-5916 for more details.



## DON'T MISS THE FINAL 2022 PARKS & REC JOB FAIRS!

**MARCH 30**

Wednesday, 4-7 p.m.  
Trail Winds Recreation Center  
13495 Holly St.

**APRIL 20**

Wednesday, 4-7 p.m.  
Carpenter Recreation Center  
11151 Colorado Blvd.

*Amazing wellness program with recreation center pass included upon hiring!*

**OVER 40 WORKGROUPS AND 100S OF YEAR-ROUND AND SEASONAL POSITIONS!**

**AQUATICS • EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION • GOLF • GYMNASICS • PARKS RECREATION FACILITIES • SPORTS & ATHLETICS • YOUTH PROGRAMS**



**gocot.net/jobs**

To learn more about year-round and 2022 summer job opportunities, you are invited to attend the Thornton Parks, Recreation & Community Programs Job Fair where you will have an opportunity to participate in screening interviews with Thornton Human Resources staff.